GRAMMATICAL SYNOPSIS.

Pronunciation.

194 In English each of the vowels is pronounced in more ways than one: e.g., A is pronounced differently in fate, far, and fat.

In the following pages the vowels, with the exception of E, have only one pronunciation.

A is pronounced as in far.
E „ „ let, (example *prentah*).
E „ short (examples *enda*, *pengidup*).
I „ as ee in feet.
O „ as in told.
U „ as oo in boot.

As regards the consonants, G is always pronounced hard as in go. The soft sound of G as in the word gentle is expressed by j (example *jimat*). Ng is pronounced like ng in hang and when it occurs in the middle of a word it is always pronounced with the vowel that precedes it (example *bang-at*), and when there is another g following the ng it is pronounced with the following vowel (examples, *tang-gong*, *ting-gi*).

Ch is pronounced as ch in church.

Whenever a word ends in h that word should be pronounced with an abrupt ending. There should be a distinct difference between the pronunciation of words *tama*, to enter; *padah*, send for.

Accent.

The majority of Dyak words are of two syllables and the accented syllable is *generally* the first.

Number.

193 The plural, if not sufficiently made clear by the context, is indicated by the use of such words as *maioh*, many, *samoa*, all.

Gender.

Inflection is not known in Dyak. Most nouns which signify animate things are of both genders and the sexes are distinguished by the addition of the words *laki*, male, *indu*, female. Thus: *babi laki*, a boar; *babi indu*, a sow.

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Adjectives.

An adjective must follow its substantive, as *orang brani*, a brave man; *orang badas*, a good man. 193

Degrees of comparison are expressed by the addition of adverbs as *agi*, *lebih*, *bendar*, *pemadu*, *korang*, *nadai*. Thus: *brani*, brave; *brani agi* (or *lebih brani*), braver; *brani bendar* (or *pemadu brani*), bravest; *korang brani*, less brave; *nadai brani*, least brave.

Adverbs.

Adverbs are placed either before or after their verbs, as, *iya bejalai dras*, or *iya dras bejalai*, he walks fast; *iya landik bejako*, or *iya bejako landik*, he talks fluently.

Articles.

There are no articles in Dyak which correspond with our definite article *the* and indefinite articles *a, an*. *Ukui*, dog, *manok*, fowl, signify equally *the* dog and *the* fowl.

Personal Pronouns.

Singular.
- *Aku*, I.
- *Nuan*, or *Di*, you.
- *Iya*, he, she, it.

Plural.
- *Kami*, we (excluding the person addressed.)
- *Kitai*, we.
- *Kita*, ye.
- *Sida*, they.

Possessive Pronouns.

The possessive pronouns are expressed by the words *empu* and *enggi*. Thus *aku empu*, or *enggi aku*, mine. *Nuan empu*, or *enggi nuan*, yours. *Iya empu*, or *enggi iya*, his, or hers. Similarly also with the plural.

Relative Pronouns.

There is only one relative pronoun *ti* (the other forms are *ki* and *kai*), who, which, that. *Burong ti siga*. A bird that is wild. *Raja ti lurus*. A king who is just. *Utai ti iya empu*. The things which belong to him.

Demonstrative Pronouns.

The demonstrative pronouns are *tu*, this, and *nya*, that. *Tu anak aku*. This is my child. *Nya anak iya*. That is her child.

In giving examples of the use and meaning of the Dyak words we have drawn upon the undermentioned sources: (I) published Dyak works, (II) well-known sayings or proverbs *(ensumbar jako)*, (III) incantations, or, as in the majority of the examples given, have (IV) composed sentences in which we have endeavoured to shew how a word is commonly used or its meaning by the context. 128

128 193 I. In arranging words in this Dictionary we have thought best to give first, the *root form*, which may be substantive, adjective, adverb, etc., etc., or the imperative mood of a verb, and after it, in a bracket, the *verb form* (v.f.), showing the change a verb undergoes when it assumes the mutilated prefix (of which the Malay forms would be *me—*, *men—*, *meng —*). The only other forms a verb possesses are (I) the passive, and sometimes, (II) the intransitive. Both of these would be formed from the root. In the former case (I) by prefixing *di*, in the later (II) by prefixing *b*, *be—(ber—)*; examples of the latter are *occasionally* included in the v. f. bracket, thus: *ban* (v. f. *man*; *beban*), and *gawai* (*begawai*).

193 II. The following table shews the usual changes that occur to the *root forms* of verbs when they assume a prefix (v. f.).

[NOTE.—There are certain few exceptions].

VERBS WHOSE *root forms* COMMENCE WITH—

A prefix *ng*, *as* adar, ngadar.

B change *b* into *m*, *as* bangkit, mangkit.

Ch change *ch* into *ny*, *as* chenaga, nyenaga.

D change *d* into *n*, *as* diang, niang.

E prefix *ng*, *as* empong, ngempong.

G prefix *n*, *as* gali, ngali.

I prefix *ng*, *as* insur, nginsur.

J change *j* into *ny*, *as* jeluta, nyeluta.

K change *k* into *nge*, *as* krat, ngerat.

L prefix *nge*, *as* lalu, ngelalu.

M prefix *me*, *as* mut, memut.

N undergo no change.

P change *p* into *m*, *as* pangkong, mangkong.

R prefix *nge*, *as* ruboh, ngeruboh.

S change *s* into *ny*, *as* sagi, nyagi.

T change *t* into *n*, *as* turun, nurun.

U prefix *ng*, *as* unsut, ngunsut.

III. Tense is expressed by the addition of the following auxiliary verbs: *udah*, *nyau*, *deka* or *ka*, and *bisi*. The present tense, *Aku makai*, I eat. The past tense, *Aku udah makai*, I have eaten. The future tense, *Aku deka* (or *ka*) *makai*, I shall eat. *Bisi* is the past emphatic: *Aku bisi makai*, I did eat.

[NOTE.—This however is only the case when *bisi* precedes a verb; when it precedes a substantive it signifies to have. Thus, *aku bisi pemakai*, I have food].

IV. There are some nouns formed from verbs by prefixing the syllables *pe*, *pen* or *peng* to the root form of the verb, as *pemakai* from *makai* to eat; *pendian*, an abode, from *dian* to stay, etc., etc., but the student should be cautious about forming such nouns *without authority*.

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V. It will be useful to commit to memory the following adverbs:

ADVERBS OF PLACE.

Ditu, here. *Din*, there.
Dini, where? *Kini*? whither?
Semak, *damping*, or *dampi*, near.
Di tanah, or, *di tengah laman*, outside. *Dalam*, inside.
Sebrai, across, across river.
Jauh, far.
Atas, above. *Baroh*, below.
Berimbai, beside, alongside.
Blakang, behind.

ADVERBS OF TIME.

Kamaiatu, *dia-iya*, *dia-tu*, now.
Tadi, just now.
Dulu, *kalia*, *menya* or *agi kalia*, before, formerly.
Lagi, *ila*, presently.
Empai, *bedau*, *apin*, not yet.
Tumu, early.
Pagila, *ilá*, to-morrow.
Kamari, yesterday.
Ensanus, *ensana*, the day before yesterday.
Lusa, the day after to-morrow.
Tulat, the third day from this.
Lupit, the fourth day from this.
Lanit, the fifth day from this.
Leboh, *maia*, when.
Udah nya, afterwards.
Kala, ever.
Enda kala, never.
Sekumbang, *leboh*, whilst.
Ama, sometimes.
Kamaia? maia ni? when?

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERBS.

Adaipen, indeed, because.
Engka, perhaps.
Baka nya, like that. *Baka tu*, like this.
Baka ni? kati ko? how?
Au, yes. *Ukai*, no, not. *Enda*, no.
Mina, *saja*, only. *Lebih agi*, so much the more.
Amat, *amai*, *bendar*, certainly. *Au me*, indeed (assent).
Salalu, *semampai*, *seruran*, always.

And the following CONJUNCTIONS—

Enti, if. *Jangka (nyangka)*, perhaps. *Agi*, again.
Anak ka, *ngambi ka*, in order that.
Sa tengka agi, *agi mega*, *tambah mega*, furthermore.
Sebab, *laban*, *kra*, *olih*, because.
Skalika, or. *Utang* (or *tang*), *amai*, but.
Mega, also. *Sabaka*, *pia mega*, as, like. *Agi pen*, besides, also. *Saja*, although.
Empai pia, notwithstanding.

VI. The numerals are the same as the Malay.